WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for manufacturing a glass blank having a predetermined contour from a plate glass, said method comprising:

a first step of scoring said plate glass to form an outline surrounding a part to be said glass blank;

a second step of scoring said plate glass to form at least one cutting line connecting said outline with the outer edge of said plate glass;

a third step of substantially horizontally supporting said plate glass such that only said inner part inside said outline is kept into contact with a support and the other part is floated; and

a fourth step of blowing hot air onto said outline and said at least one cutting line to generate thermal stress on said plate glass along said cutting line and said outline, thereby breaking said plate glass along said cutting line and said outline.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in said second step, a plurality of the cutting lines are scored.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in said first step, said plate glass is scored with said outline by use of a glass cutter.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in said second step, said plate glass is scored with said

cutting line by use of a glass cutter.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in said third step, said plate glass is sucked and supported by an air chuck which sucks said part to be said glass blank.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in said fourth step, the hot air blown has a temperature within the range of 300 to 700°C.